



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 19, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 18, 2002
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Record Temperatures Kept Western Growers Scrambling to Keep Plants Hydrated Strong Winds Damaged Bartlett Pear Orchards

Field Crops

Grain yields in Whitman County and surrounding region were generally average in the areas with higher annual rainfall, but tended to be 10-20 percent lower than average in drier areas of the county. Record high temperatures in the west greatly expedited corn tasseling but also resulted in some scorch damage to Nobel fir on Christmas tree farms. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble and other firs and side shearing Grand fir.

Livestock

Livestock producers in the western part of the state who have irrigated hayfields, harvested a premium crop due to the ideal curing conditions throughout the week. Third cutting alfalfa and grass hay harvests continued. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 46% poor, 34% fair and 16% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Strong winds caused widespread damage in Okanogan, Northern Chelan, and Douglas County orchards. The most obvious damage was fruit drop in Bartlett pear orchards. Bartlett pear harvest began in the earliest areas of the region. Peaches were being picked in Franklin County. Vegetable seed harvest continued in Grant. In Snohomish and Northern King, vegetable crops, blueberries, and cane berries were at the peak of harvest.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	52	37	0
Subsoil	5	48	47	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Hay & Roughage	0	6	93	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	55	30	55	54
Winter Wheat Harvested	70	60	79	77
Barley Harvested	39	23	42	53
Potatoes Harvested	26	25	19	19
Corn Silage Harvested	4	3	2	3
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	0	0	4	3
Dry Peas Harvested	49	20	61	60
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	0	100	0	0
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	57	30	60	57

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	9	50	35	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	14	57	28	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	94	6
Barley Dryland	0	7	56	35	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	91	9
Potatoes	0	0	22	75	3
Corn	0	0	19	81	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	4	93	1

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Record breaking temperatures early in the week resulted in drought conditions in many areas of the county; especially in those areas where irrigation was not available. Aberdeen recorded temperatures of 99 degrees F. on Tuesday which broke all previous records. The intense heat resulted in some scorch damage to Nobel fir on Christmas tree farms. The high temperatures greatly expedited the tasseling out of corn. U-Pick vegetable and berry farms scrambled to keep fields irrigated. Commercial dahlia fields were a blaze of color as the warm temperatures resulted in a profusion of blooms. Some livestock producers who have irrigated hayfields, harvested a premium crop due to ideal curing conditions throughout the week. As is typical of this time of the year, many of the fields and forests of the county were tinder dry posing tremendous fire hazard! Without exception, ag producers were hoping for a good rain!

Snohomish/North King: Early morning temperatures were starting to dip lower and leaves were already starting to turn color and drop off trees. Early varieties of apples were ready for picking. Vegetable crops, blueberries, and cane berries were at the peak of harvest. Grass harvest continued with more than the average amount of cuttings for many farms.

Thurston: Very warm temperatures early in the week had blueberry and turfgrass growers scrambling to keep plants hydrated. Non-irrigated pastures became parched for lack of water and the extended dry spell. Turfgrass growers temporarily suspended field cultivation due to dusty conditions. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble and other true firs and side shearing Grand fir. Organic vegetable growers continued harvesting crops for sale at farmer's markets in the Puget Sound Corridor. Silage corn under irrigation was over 8 feet tall in some fields.

Central

Benton: There were no crop losses reported from damaged crops.

Douglas/Chelan: Strong winds caused widespread damage in Okanogan, Northern Chelan, and Douglas County orchards. The most obvious damage was fruit drop in Bartlett pear orchards. Other damage will be evident later. Bartlett pear harvest started in the earliest areas of the region, and will continue to higher, later orchards for about three more weeks. Gala apple harvest will begin soon and will continue for about a month. All tree fruit crops continued to develop well.

Franklin: The weather continued to be warm and dry. Potatoes, sweet corn, carrots, and onions were being harvested. The third cutting of alfalfa was being taken. Wheat and barley harvesting continued. Peaches were being picked.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest continued. Vegetable seed harvest continued. Alfalfa for seed was being planted. Brassica green manure crops were planted. Triticale for winter grazing was seeded.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from normal to 9 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. Several vegetable growers reported significant crop losses due to a "blight" disease problem.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest was on the downside. Reports of fall recrop of winter wheat were way below normal. Winter wheat crops on summer fallow were near normal or just below normal in many cases.

Stevens: Harvest continued under clear skies. High winds occurred twice during the week, starting several small fires in the area. Crops were not damaged by the storms.

Whitman: Dry weather favored harvest operations. Grain yields were generally average in the areas with higher annual rainfall, but tended to be 10-20 percent lower than average in drier areas of the county.

Whitman (2nd Report): Combines continued to roll as winter wheat harvest, in the western part of the county, wrapped up. The eastern half of the county was just beginning. Spring crop harvest was wrapping up in the west as well. Yields were being noted as average to a little below average.

**Weekly Weather Statistics
August 19, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Everett	52	86	67	4	120	25	50	21	0.00	-0.31	0	31.13	-4.69	87	165
Hoquiam	50	89	62	1	84	0	26	8	0.00	-0.30	0	63.76	-3.37	95	179
Kelso	48	97	68	4	130	26	60	22	0.00	-0.33	0	40.70	-5.11	89	154
Olympia	40	93	66	3	117	21	47	18	0.00	-0.28	0	58.86	8.93	118	170
Seattle-Tacoma	51	91	69	4	135	23	65	23	0.00	-0.25	0	38.25	1.63	104	153
Shelton	43	95	68	3	126	17	56	14	0.00	-0.26	0	68.55	4.32	107	161
Tacoma	45	92	68	4	130	25	60	25	0.00	-0.28	0	30.09	-9.52	76	130
Vancouver	51	101	72	8	159	54	89	48	0.00	-0.28	0	37.45	-3.24	92	154
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	45	94	71	4	150	23	80	21	0.00	-0.07	0	7.03	-1.69	81	85
Omak	45	99	73	6	159	36	89	33	0.00	-0.27	0	9.24	-5.34	63	72
Stampede Pass	46	83	63	8	96	47	34	20	0.00	-0.43	0	76.45	-3.56	96	172
Wenatchee	53	99	77	4	188	24	118	25	0.00	-0.07	0	5.42	-2.64	67	64
Yakima AP	44	99	71	2	150	14	80	12	0.00	-0.07	0	7.02	-0.73	91	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	102	71	5	148	32	78	29	0.00	-0.25	0	15.49	-5.21	75	84
Deer Park	33	95	65	-4	108	-24	39	-24	0.00	-0.18	0	21.24	3.10	117	121
Spokane AP	48	94	70	1	140	8	70	5	0.00	-0.14	0	13.90	-2.23	86	111
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	52	98	78	4	196	24	126	24	0.00	-0.06	0	5.77	-1.33	81	64
Moses Lake	47	98	75	1	179	7	109	7	0.00	-0.06	0	5.78	-1.32	81	66
Quincy	45	96	74	4	172	27	102	25	0.00	-0.07	0	6.30	-1.33	83	61
Ritzville	50	96	71	3	152	17	82	15	0.00	-0.07	0	9.93	-1.13	90	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	48	103	78	0	198	3	128	3	0.00	-0.07	0	5.64	-0.70	89	51
Pasco	46	101	73	-3	161	-9	91	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	5.95	-1.34	82	59
Pullman	40	91	64	-3	100	-14	31	-18	0.00	-0.21	0	17.64	-3.06	85	110
Whitman Mission	35	99	68	-3	129	-15	59	-16	0.00	-0.14	0	13.20	-0.27	98	97
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	41	93	66	-4	116	-25	46	-26	0.00	-0.28	0	21.29	-4.04	84	120
Lewiston ID	53	98	75	1	178	8	108	9	0.00	-0.17	0	10.39	-1.65	86	107

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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